

# **DRAFT**

# **Shannon Ranch**

# **Conservation Area**

## **Fifteen-Year Area Management Plan**

**FY 2017-2031**



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## OVERVIEW

- **Official Area Name:** Shannon Ranch Conservation Area, #8423
- **Year of Initial Acquisition:** 1984
- **Acreage:** 1,565 acres
- **County:** Douglas
- **Division with Administrative Responsibility:** Forestry
- **Division with Maintenance Responsibility:** Forestry, Design and Development (roads)
- **Statements of Purpose:**
  - A. Strategic Direction**

Manage for multiple resources with emphasis on forests, associated plant and wildlife species, watershed protection, and compatible recreational opportunities.
  - B. Desired Future Condition**

The desired future condition of Shannon Ranch Conservation Area (CA) is a healthy forest/woodland and diverse old field/grassland habitat.
  - C. Federal Aid Statement**

N/A

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

### I. Special Considerations

- A. Priority Areas:** Shannon Ranch Terrestrial Conservation Opportunity Area, Priority Forest Landscape
- B. Natural Areas:** None

### II. Important Natural Features and Resources

- A. Species of Conservation Concern:** Species of conservation concern are known from this area. Area Managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the Natural History Biologist.
- B. Caves:** None
- C. Springs:** Yes, records kept with Missouri Department of Conservation (the Department) Natural History Biologist.

### III. Existing Infrastructure

- 6 parking lots
- picnic tables and grills
- 1 camping area (2 camp sites)
- 1 scenic overlook
- 11 fishless ponds (3.0 acres)

#### IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

- A. **Deed Restrictions or Ownership Considerations:** Yes. Floodplain restriction, 5 acres.
- B. **Federal Interest:** Federal funds may be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.
- C. **Easements:** State Highway 95, Howell-Oregon Electric right of way
- D. **Cultural Resources Findings:** No known cultural resources.
- E. **Hazards and Hazardous Materials:** None observed.
- F. **Endangered Species:** None observed.
- G. **Boundary Issues:** Establishing accurate and identifiable boundary markers is a priority for this property.

### MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

#### V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

##### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Improve and restore forest/woodland and glade landscapes.
- 2) Improve habitat for deer and other game species.
- 3) Improve habitat and natural diversity by limiting the spread of invasive plant species.

**Management Objective 1:** Maintain, enhance and restore forest/woodland and glade natural communities. (Forestry, Wildlife)

**Strategy 1:** Implement management recommendations from the conservation area 2004 forest inventory for compartment 1, and the 2002 inventory for compartment 2. (Forestry, Wildlife)

**Strategy 2:** Continue to use best management practices to manage glade habitats and monitor species of conservation concern restoration sites. (Forestry)

**Strategy 3:** Implement Best Management Practices to prevent erosion during any forest management activities according to the *Missouri Watershed Protection Practices – Management Guidelines for Maintaining Forested Watersheds to Protect Streams* booklet (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2014). (Forestry)

**Strategy 4:** Conduct a forest inventory of Compartment 2 in FY22, and Compartment 1 in FY24. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 2:** Maintain and enhance deer and other game habitats. (Forestry, Wildlife)

**Strategy 1:** Implement active field management to reduce woody encroachment and encourage old field structure. (Forestry, Wildlife)

**Strategy 2:** Improve forest wildlife habitat by managing forest structure to provide early successional habitat. (Forestry)

**Management Objective 3:** Reduce the impact of invasive plant species on natural communities. (Forestry, Wildlife)

**Strategy 1:** Continue to control invasive species, including fescue, sericea lespedeza, Johnson grass, and autumn olive. (Forestry, Wildlife)

**Strategy 2:** Monitor the area for invasive species. Suppress any infestations that may develop, as soon as possible, using appropriate methods. (Forestry, Wildlife)

## **VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations**

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Manage and protect karst land features and White River drainage basin.

**Management Objective 1:** Protect and enhance the riparian corridor and karst features on the area. (Forestry, Wildlife)

**Strategy 1:** Minimize sedimentation within the area from land management practices and/or road systems that will affect biodiversity of unique habitats, by following the practices recommended in *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by Missouri Department of Conservation* (Missouri Department of Conservation, 2009). (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Maintain a riparian corridor with a minimum of 100 feet from the top of the bank on each side for third-order streams and larger (per Missouri Department of Conservation, 2009). (Forestry, Wildlife)

## **VII. Public Use Management Considerations**

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Provide for hunting and viewing opportunities.
- 2) Provide public use access and balance area use by stakeholders.

**Management Objective 1:** Provide public hunting and viewing opportunities. (Forestry, Wildlife)

**Strategy 1:** Conduct annual management activities that will provide habitat for a diversity of species. (Forestry, Wildlife)

**Management Objective 2:** Maintain existing service roads for use by the public and Department staff. (Forestry)

**Strategy 1:** Monitor and clear/improve area trails as needed. (Forestry)

**Strategy 2:** Continue to monitor area use and limit special use permits that could impact use by other stakeholders. (Forestry)

**Strategy 3:** Maintain signs along boundary lines every 5 years or as needed. (Forestry)

## **VIII. Administrative Considerations**

### **Challenges and Opportunities:**

- 1) Acquisition of land.

### **Lands Proposed for Acquisition:**

When available, adjacent land may be considered for acquisition from willing sellers. Tracts that improve area access, provide public use opportunities, contain unique natural communities and/or species of conservation concern, or meet other Department priorities, as identified in the annual Department land acquisition priorities, may be considered. (Forestry)

## MANAGEMENT TIMETABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

|   | FY17 | FY18 | FY19 | FY20 | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 | FY26 | FY27 | FY28 | FY29 | FY30 | FY31 |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| <b>Terrestrial Resources Management</b>     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| <i>Objective 1</i>                          |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Strategy 4                                  |      |      |      |      |      | X    |      | X    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| <i>Objective 2</i>                          |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Strategy 1                                  |      | X    |      |      | X    |      |      | X    |      |      | X    |      |      | X    |      |
| Strategy 2                                  |      | X    |      |      | X    |      |      | X    |      |      | X    |      |      | X    |      |
| <i>Objective 3</i>                          |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Strategy 1                                  | X    |      | X    |      | X    |      | X    |      | X    |      | X    |      | X    |      | X    |
| <b>Aquatic Resources Management</b>         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| <i>Objective 1</i>                          |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Strategy 1                                  | X    |      | X    |      | X    |      | X    |      | X    |      | X    |      | X    |      | X    |
| Strategy 2                                  | X    |      | X    |      | X    |      | X    |      | X    |      | X    |      | X    |      | X    |
| <b>Public Use Management Considerations</b> |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| <i>Objective 2</i>                          |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| Strategy 1                                  | X    |      | X    |      | X    |      | X    |      | X    |      | X    |      | X    |      | X    |
| Strategy 3                                  |      | X    |      |      |      |      | X    |      |      |      |      | X    |      |      |      |

## APPENDICES

### Area Background:

Shannon Ranch Conservation Area was named in honor of the Shannon family who farmed it for many years. The original 985 acres was acquired from a group of Springfield Missouri doctors who agreed to reduce the price to 60 percent of the appraised value. Possession was obtained in 1984 using funds derived from the Conservation Sales Tax. The property had been heavily logged and grazed before acquisition.

On Oct. 3, 1988 the Missouri Conservation Commission acquired the 340-acre Underdal tract located on the northwest corner of Shannon Ranch CA. The failed dairy operation was purchased for \$80,000. The open land was overgrazed and in need of lime and fertilizer. All of the merchantable timber had been removed.

In 1998 the Missouri Conservation Commission acquired 240 acres located to the east, expanding ownership to both sides of Highway W. The acquisition was part of a multiple tract deal between the Department and the U.S. Forest Service. The tract is entirely forested, containing mostly oak and pine timber. The property has a distant history of high-grade timber harvest and wildfire.

### Current Land and Water Types:

| Land/Water Type         | Acres        | % of Area  |
|-------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Upland Forest/Woodlands | 825          | 53         |
| Glade                   | 120          | 8          |
| Savanna                 | 475          | 30         |
| Grassland (Non-prairie) | 133          | 8          |
| Roads                   | 12           | 1          |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>1,565</b> | <b>100</b> |

### References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (2014) *Missouri Watershed Protection Practices – Management Guidelines for Maintaining Forested Watersheds to Protect Streams* booklet.

### Maps:

Figure 1: Area Map

Figure 2: County Map

Figure 3: Topographic Map

Figure 4: Aerial Map

Figure 5: Land Cover Map

Figure 6: Easement Map

Figure 1: Area Map

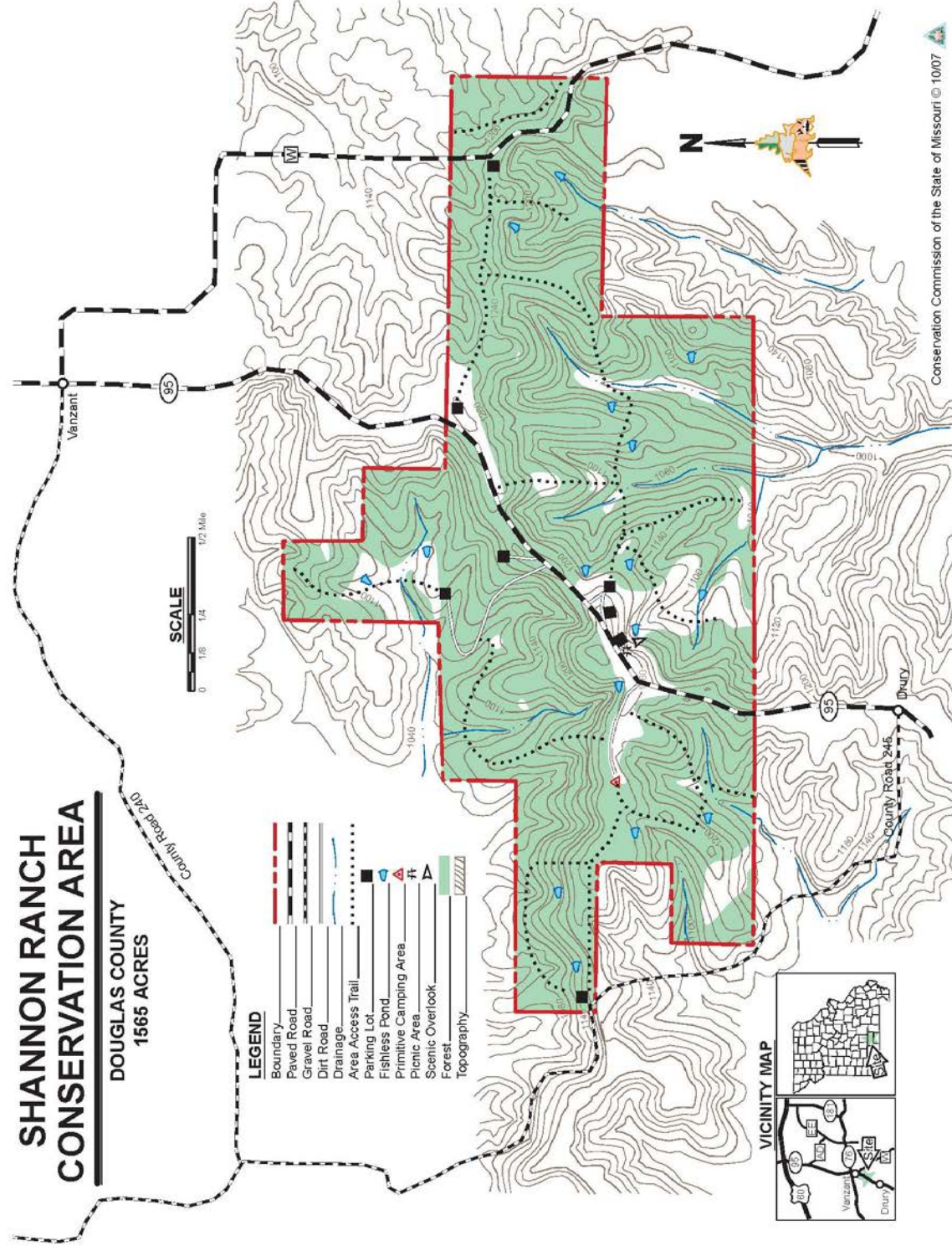
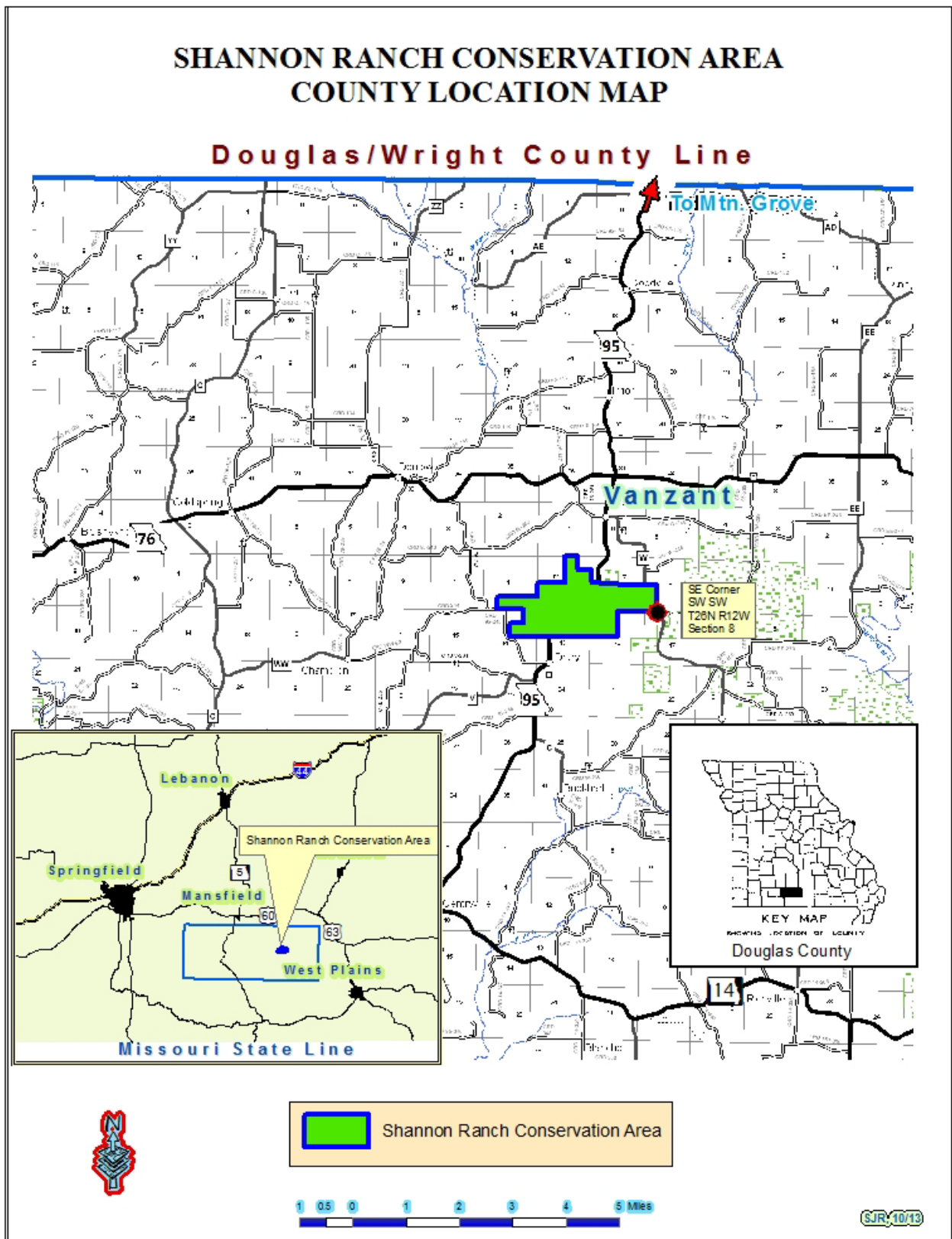
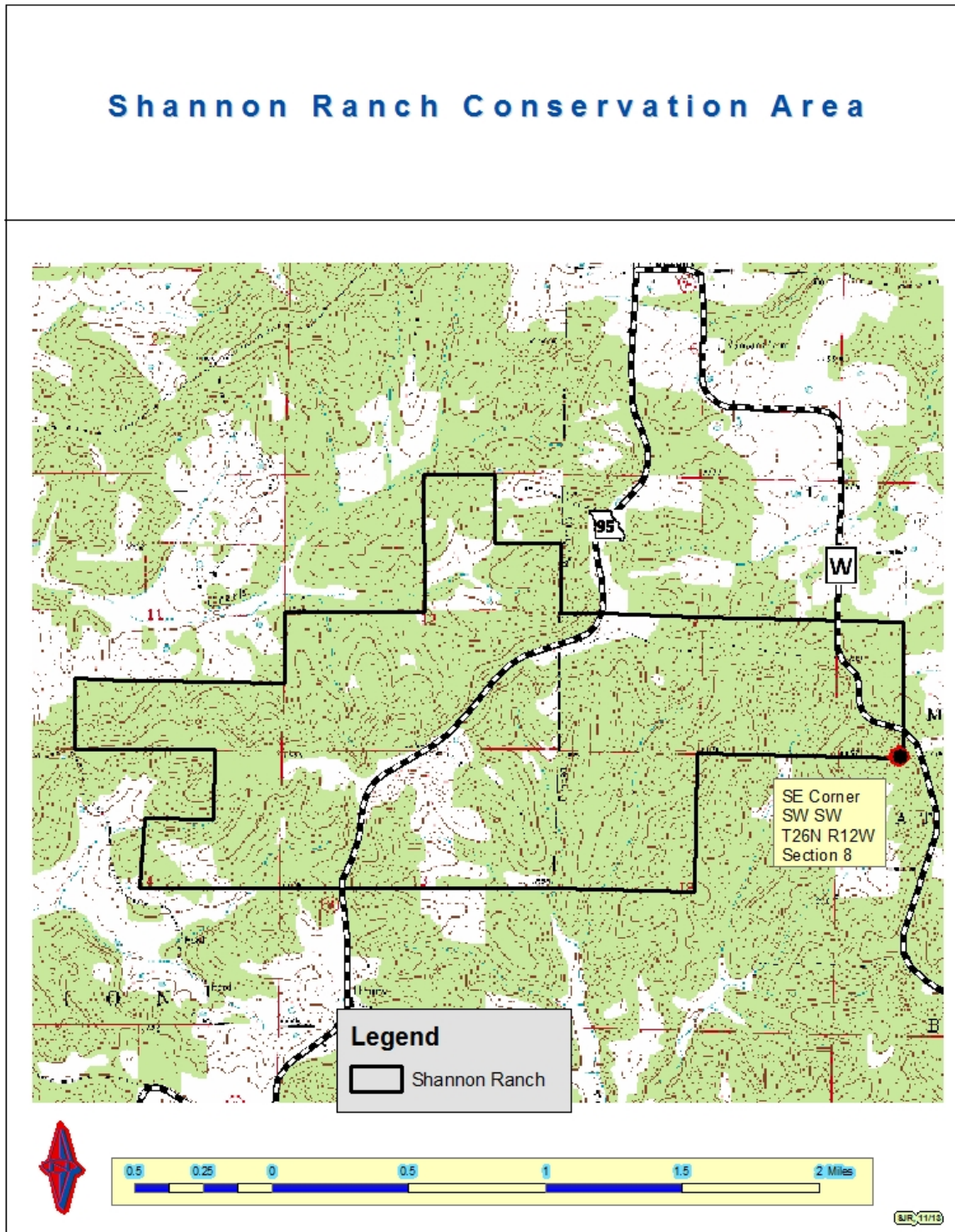




Figure 2: County Location Map

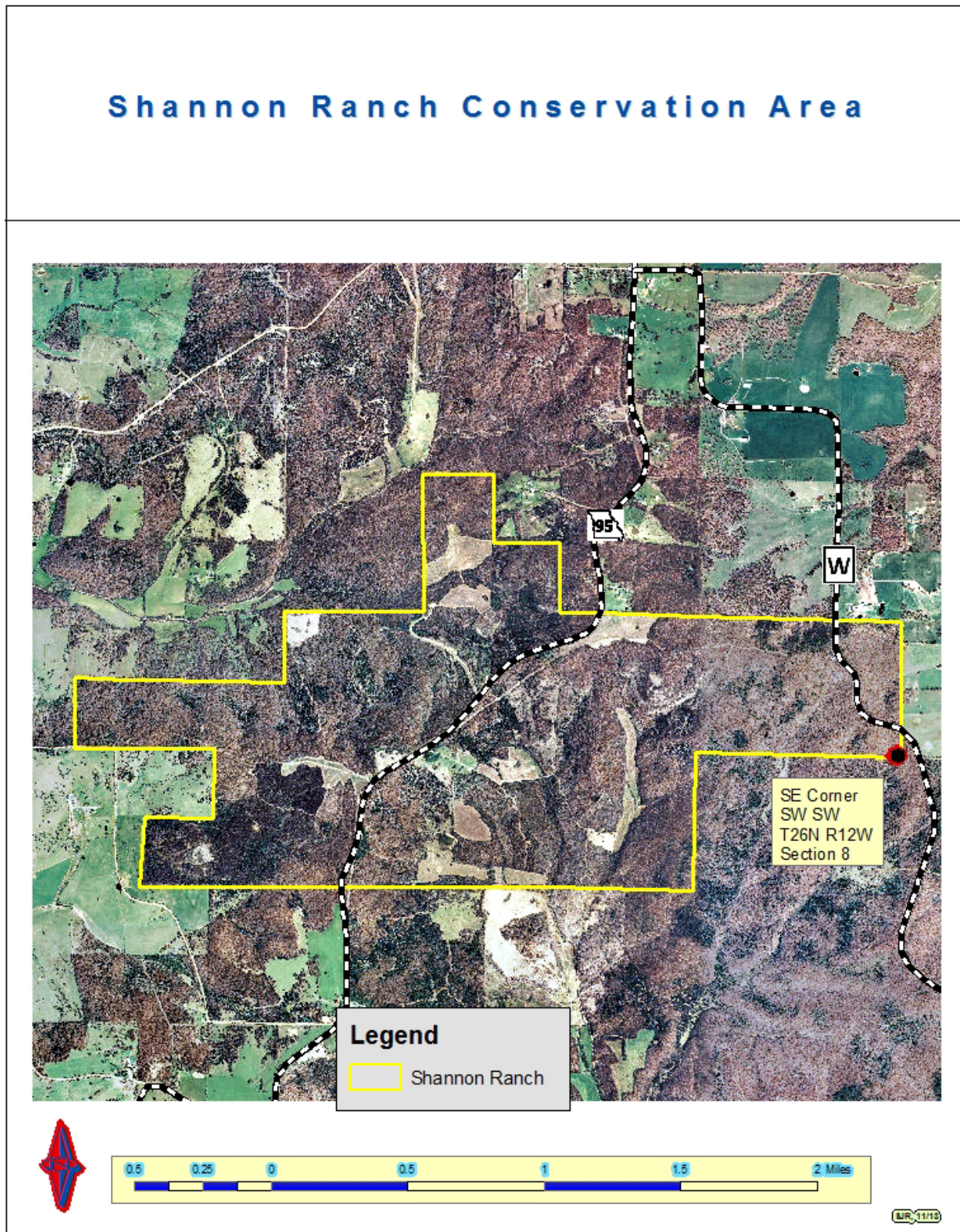


**Figure 3: Topographic Map**

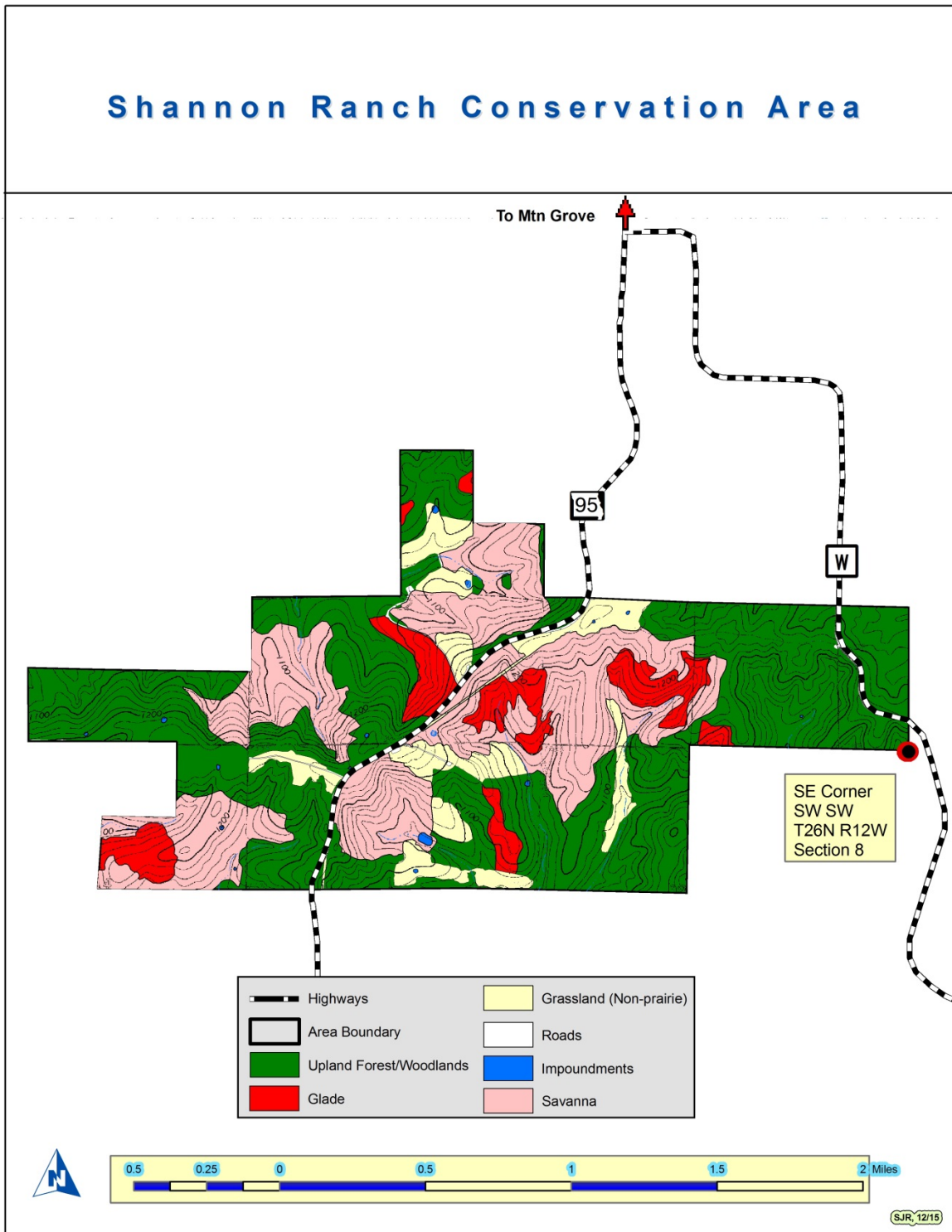




**Figure 4: Aerial Map**

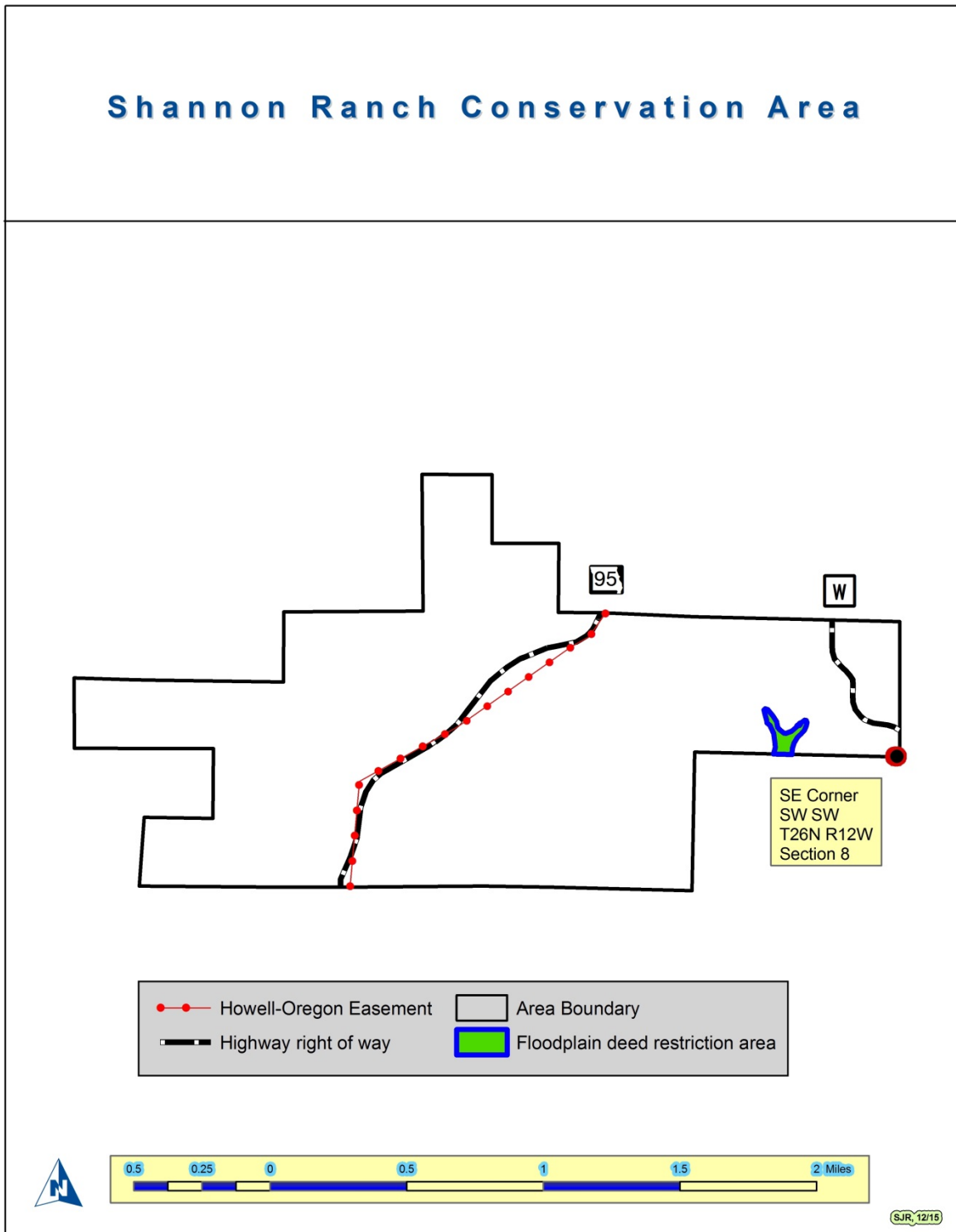


**Figure 5: Land Cover Map**





**Figure 6: Easement Map**



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